

node connected with a first bridge to form a sub-network, and connecting plural sub-networks with a second bridge, [wherein] comprising the steps of:

selecting a network manager [selected] from sub-network managers specified in each of said sub-networks [at least manages];

causing the selected network manager to assign each sub-network with an address;

and causing the selected network manager [manages] to set communication [path] paths between respective sub-networks.

--2. (Amended) [A] The network managing method of claim 1, wherein the selected network manager is [one] the sub-network manager having a highest [in the] manager capability among said sub-network managers.

--3. (Amended) [A] The network managing method of claim 1, wherein each said sub-network manager has a parameter showing its own manager capability and has identification data intrinsic to an appliance [for composing] containing the network manager.

--4. (Amended) [A] The network managing method of claim 2, wherein a process for selecting [the one] said sub-network manager having the highest manager capability [is to select one highest in the capability by] includes comparing parameters showing [own] manager capabilities possessed by respective sub-network managers.

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--5. (Amended) [A] The network managing method of claim 4, wherein [one] the selected sub-network manager is selected as a network manager by comparing [the] identification data intrinsic to each said appliance in a specified state when the said parameters showing [the] manager [capability] capabilities are identical.

--6. (Amended) [A] The network managing method of claim 1, wherein management by said network manager [is to select a] includes selecting said sub-network manager having the highest [in the] capability as the network manager in communication between adjacent ones of said plural sub-networks.

--7. (Amended) [A] The network managing method of claim 1, wherein a parameter showing the [own] manager capability and identification data intrinsic to [the] an appliance [for composing] containing the selected network manager are transmitted between adjacent ones of said sub-network managers.

--8. (Amended) [A] The network managing method of claim 7, wherein one sub-network manager is selected by comparing [between] two sub-network managers in a transmission of said parameters showing the manager capability and said identification data between adjacent ones of said plural sub-network managers, a non-selected sub-network manager [not selected] inherits a manager capability parameter and identification data from the selected sub-network manager, and

a subsequent comparison of adjacent sub-network parameters is performed [based on] using the inherited parameter showing manager capability and identification data used as the parameter and identification data for the non-selected sub-network manager.

--9. (Amended) [A] The network managing method of claim 7, wherein one sub-network manager is selected as a parent by comparing [between] two sub-network managers in the transmission of said parameters showing the manager capability and said identification data between adjacent ones of said sub-network managers, and

[other] the non-selected sub-network manager [not selected] is regarded as a child.

--10. (Amended) [A] The network managing method of claim 9, wherein [if] when said capability parameters and said identification data of both said sub-network managers are identical in said comparison, the manager capability parameters and identification data are assumed to be inherited from the same parent sub-network manager, and the parent-child relation is disregarded.

--11. (Amended) [A] The network managing method of claim 10, wherein [if] when a relation with one adjacent sub-network manager is the parent, and there is no other adjacent sub-network manager, an end command is transmitted to the parent sub-network manager.

--12. (Amended) [A] The network managing method of claim 10, wherein if a relation with one adjacent sub-network manager is the parent, and a relation with [the] a remaining adjacent sub-network manager is indifferent to said parent-child relation or said child, and an end command is received from all children, and end command is transmitted to the parent sub-network manager.

--13. (Amended) [A] The network managing method of claim 10, wherein [if] when a relation with all adjacent sub-network managers is indifferent to said parent-child relation or said child, and an end command is received from all children, [an own] the sub-network manager is judged to be [a] said network manager.

--14. (Amended) [A] The network managing method of claim 7, comprising the further steps of:

making a first command for sending out a capacity parameter and intrinsic identification data as a communication command in transmission between adjacent ones of said plural sub-network managers, and demanding [1:1] a one-to-one comparison with an adjacent sub-network manager, and

making a second command for comparing [in] a response to said first command, and reporting [its] a result of the step of comparing.

--15. (Amended) [A] The network managing method of claim 14, wherein, in case of [having] making said first command and said

second command, it is judged whether the second command is valid [or not] by setting a specified counter value and comparing [between] both said sub-network managers [of] to the set counter value.

--16. (Amended) [A] The network managing method of claim 13, wherein a sub-network manager judging itself to be [a] said network manager transmits a selection end command indicating [selected] its selection as a network manager to all adjacent sub-networks, and

a sub-network [managers] manager receiving [the] data indicating selection as the network manager transmits a selection end command to all adjacent said child sub-network managers.

--17. (Amended) A [selecting] method [of network manager] for selecting a network manager for managing an entire network system [, in a network system] composed by connecting buses having at least one node connected with a first bridge to form a [net-network] sub-network, and connecting plural sub-networks with a second bridge, comprising the steps of:

[wherein said network manager is selected from] specifying sub-network managers [specified] in each one of said sub-networks by a specified process; and

selecting the network manager from the sub-network managers specified in said step of specifying.

--18. (Amended) [A selecting] The method [of] for selecting a network manager of claim 17, wherein [the] said network manager [selects one] is selected based on a highest [in the] manager capability among said specified sub-network managers.

--19. (Amended) [A selecting] The method [of] for selecting a network manager of claim 17, wherein each said sub-network manager has a parameter showing its own manager capability [,] and identification data intrinsic to an appliance [for composing] containing the network manager, and [select a] the network manager is selected according to the parameter and identification data.

--20. (Amended) [A selecting] The method [of] for selecting a network manager of claim 18, wherein a process for selecting the [one] said sub-network manager having the highest manager capability [is to select one] includes selecting the sub-network manager having the highest [in the] capability by comparing the parameters showing [own] manager capabilities possessed by each sub-network manager.

--21. (Amended) [A selecting] The method [of] for selecting a network manager of claim 20, wherein one said sub-network is selected as [a] said network manager by comparing said identification intrinsic to each appliance forming the network in a specified state when [the] said parameters

showing the manager capability are identical.

--22. (Amended) [A selecting] The method [of] for selecting a network manager of claim 17, wherein [a] said network manager is selected by judging a sub-network manager [of the] having a highest capability in communication between adjacent ones of said plural sub-networks.

--23. (Amended) [A selecting] The method [of] for selecting a network manager of claim 17, wherein a parameter showing [an own] manager capability and identification data intrinsic to an appliance [for composing] containing the manager are transmitted between adjacent sub-network managers, and a sub-network manager [appropriate as a] for the network manager is selected.

--24. (Amended) [A selecting] The method [of] for selecting a network manager of claim 23, wherein one sub-network manager is selected by comparing between two sub-network managers [in] based on a transmission of said parameters showing manager capability and identification data between adjacent ones of said plural sub-network managers,

[other] a non-selected sub-network manager [not selected] inherits the parameter showing manager capability and identification data from the selected sub-network manager, and

a subsequent comparison of adjacent sub-network managers is based on the inherited data used as [own] the parameter and

identification data for the non-selected sub-network manager.

--25. (Amended) [A selecting] The method [of] for selecting a network manager of claim 23, wherein one said sub-network manager is selected as a parent by comparing between two sub-network managers [in] based on a transmission of said parameters showing manager capability and identification data between adjacent ones of said plural sub-network managers, and [other] the non-selected sub-network manager [not selected] is regarded as a child.

--26. (Amended) [A selecting] The method [of] for selecting a network manager of claim 25, wherein [if] when the manager capability parameters and identification data of both sub-network managers are identical in said comparison, [data] the parameter showing manager capability and identification data are assumed to be inherited from the same parent sub-network manager, and [the] a parent-child relation is disregarded.

--27. (Amended) [A selecting] The method [of] for selecting a network manager of claim 26, wherein [if] when a relation with one adjacent sub-network manager is as the parent, and there is no other adjacent sub-network manager, an end command is transmitted to [a] the parent sub-network manager.